

Taft Expects To Break Records.

Great Hand Shaking Anticipated at White House New Year's Day. Other Receptions to Follow.

Washington, Dec. 31.—It is expected that President Taft will shake the hands of not less than 10,000 people in tomorrow's New Year reception at the White House. Last New Year's President Roosevelt had only 5,645 callers, but as this is Mr. Taft's first reception of the kind, he is expected to be a much better drawing card. The health of Mrs. Taft will not permit her to do much handshaking, but she will probably be present for an hour or two.

The New Year's reception, as usual, ushers in the series of state receptions. Tomorrow all the official world will call at the White House to wish the President and Mrs. Taft "A Happy New Year."

The cabinet, the Supreme Court, the ambassadors, and ministers of the diplomatic corps, with their secretaries and attaches, the officers of the army and navy, and a host of prominent and well-known citizens will be invited to call, with the ladies of their families and pay their respects to the Chief Executive and his wife.

This is always the pleasantest reception of the season, for it is the first large gathering of its kind, and the members of the social world meet to exchange greetings for the first time, in many cases after their various summer outings. Every one is in holiday humor and the occasion is a gala one.

The hours of the levee are from 11 to 1 o'clock, when the last stragglers of the veterans and oldest inhabitants are filing in the front entrance as the earlier and more favored guests are departing for their homes.

Texas Stock Melons.

To the Editor of The Herald:

I am writing this article for the benefit of my brother farmers of our great Southland. I have been growing this valuable melon for three years and it has proved to be the most profitable crop that I have grown in the way of furnishing green feed in cold weather.

This melon grows very large and many melons to the vine, some weighing as high as 60 pounds. The great value of this melon is its keeping qualities. They will keep all winter, and for hogs, cows, sheep, goats and fowls of all kinds there is nothing that will furnish so much green feed at a time when it is

scarce and with such little labor. They are about the only substitute I know of for a silo. And for table use they are hard to beat. For preserves hot or cold sauce they are fine, and for pies they are more like green apples than anything I know of. And I want to say right here if you want plenty of good milk in cold weather, feed them to your milk cows. They have no insect enemy and they will grow among corn the same as pumpkins. They are a cross between the Florida white and Kansas black melon and are adapted to all parts of the country. If any brother farmer would like to get a start of this melon and will write to me I will send him a package by mail, for I know they will pay him many times over for the labor expended. If any one should happen to write for seed, kindly send post, age.

G. D. Porego.

Newton, Texas.

MONEY ORDERS BY CABLE.

New Arrangement Between United States, England and Canada.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Under an agreement entered into between the postal authorities of the United States, Canada and Great Britain and the Western Union Telegraph Company, money orders may be exchanged by cable on and after tomorrow.

The maximum amount for which a single money order may be issued in England will be £40 sterling, but for orders issued in the United Kingdom the maximum amount will be 41lb 1s. 4d. which is equivalent to \$200.

To The Old Year.

Laughter and kisses—here's the end.

A wiser end could scarcely be.

You were our lover and our friend, Old Year.

And so the world and we.

Throw smiles and kisses as you wend your way.

And speed you merrily.

—A. E. Gordon.

CUSTOMS COURT CHANGES.

Appraisers No Longer Under Control of Treasury Department.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Today witnesses the passing of the treasury department's control of the board of United States general appraisers, and hereafter the customs tribunal will be as independent of the government as are the federal courts. The change about to be made becomes an accomplished fact as the direct result of amendments incorporated in the administrative section of the Aldrich-Payne tariff bill passed on August 5 last.

Ever since the foundation of the board of appraisers in 1890, the various administrations in the treasury department have been wont to look upon the board as a "bureau" of the department, and as such amenable to directions from the secretary of the treasury, or his subordinates. This conception has from time to time been opposed vigorously by some of the more independent members of the board and by importers as well as by domestic interests. Not only has the secretary of the treasury claimed the right to name the president of the board, but a disposition has existed to lay down rules for the conduct of the tribunal's business, and actually in certain instances to attempt intimidation when cases were to be decided in which the government had a vital interest.

The new tariff, however, changes all this. Not only is the executive of the board to be named by the President of the United States, but the tribunal is given direct authority to make its own rules, not alone for the conduct of routine business, but for the hearing and determination of customs issues as well. In addition to the foregoing additional powers, section 12 of the Payne law confers upon the board all of the powers possessed by the circuit courts of the United States.

Louisville Times Celebrates.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 31.—The Louisville Times celebrated its twenty-fifth birthday today by issuing one of the largest and handsomest special editions ever printed in the south. The Times is the afternoon edition of the Courier-Journal, "Marse Henry" managing editor, is a former national president of the Order of Elks, and was a strong contestant for the presidency of the National League of baseball Clubs in the recent election.

To Our Patrons:

We take this opportunity of thanking you for your most valued patronage which you have so kindly seen fit to favor us with during the now closing year of 1909.

Through your assistance alone we have made the Brownsville Hardware Company the leading store of its kind in the city of Brownsville, and we are not only thankful, but sincerely appreciate and feel personally obliged for the many favors.

In soliciting a continuance of your patronage for the new year, 1910, we wish to say that you shall always receive in return, as heretofore, courteous treatment, prompt service, free delivery, fairness, and the lowest price consistent with good and conservative business. Our efforts shall always be with a view of an earnest endeavor to ever satisfy our customers in any dealings, large or small, which we might have the pleasure of transacting with them.

Again thanking you, and with best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year, we are,

Yours very truly,

Brownsville Hardware Co.

The Herald's Job Printing Department



we believe it is unequalled by any job office in Southwest Texas

We have been lavish in fitting up our Commercial Job Printing Department.

We have purchased new presses, a new wire stitcher, stapler and numbering machines.

We have purchased new type suitable for all kinds of printing.

We have fitted our linotypes with extra magazines and matrices.

We have a complete stock of envelopes, paper, cards, etc.

We are prepared to take care of your commercial printing, and we want to do it.

It is no longer necessary to send your work away.

We are especially rigged for the prompt execution of brief work. New material and new matrices have been bought especially for this work.

Ask for Prices

We can meet any foreign competition, and besides, your work will be going on where you can keep in close touch with it.

We have a special department to take care of this fast-growing branch of our business.

Call No. 7 if you need anything in printing. Our representative will be quick to call upon you, and give you prices and any other information you may require.

**Job Printing Department of the
Brownsville Herald**

Death of the Old Year.

Miserere! toll the bell,
Let the earth send forth a knell,
For a great soul takes his flight,
None knows whither, in the night—
Miserere!

Stretched upon his snowy bier,
Dying lies the good Old Year;
And upon the midnight gale
All may hear his parting wail—
Miserere!

In the old king's chequered reign
There were mingled joy and pain;
Friends proved false, while foes
Were true.

Sinners many, saints—a few—
Miserere!

There were hearts that suffered wrong,
Bore it bravely, and were strong;
Hearts there were, so black within,
Satan wondered at their sin—
Miserere!

Garners full of fruitful store,
Measures pressed, and running o'er;
Famine in the street at night,
Doing deeds too dark for light—
Miserere!

Rang the church bells for the wed,
Tolled they also for the dead;
In one home a joy was born,
From another joy was torn—
Miserere!

Such earth's sorrow, such its sin,
All must end where they begin;
Snow which wraps the New Year's feet
Is the Old Year's winding sheet—
Miserere!

Now his spirit goeth fast,
Midnight hour will be his last;
To your knees, earth's worn and weary—
Miserere! Miserere!

—Charlotte Beaumont Jarvis.

The Fairs Still Go On.

We beg to call your attention to the fact that the elimination of horse gambling from the fairs did not break up the fairs, as was blatantly predicted by people who seem to care nothing, morally speaking, about the kind of country they shall leave to their children.—Southwestern Farmer.

New Year's Dainties

SPECIALS FOR THE XMAS DINNER TABLE

Crystallized Fruits Stuffed Dates Matinee Figs
Wine Sap Apples Spanish Table Raisins

Wise-Newman Grocery House

12th STREET, BROWNSVILLE

THE MILLER.

Newest and Finest Hotel in Southwest Texas

Modern in Every Particular

Separate parlors and writing room especially fitted for the comfort of our lady patrons.

The Miller is Farther South Than any Hotel in United States

Jno. McClintock, Proprietor

San Carlos Hotel

Entirely new, all outside rooms, facing tropical court. Cuisine unexcelled. Hot and cold baths. Rates \$2.00 per day. Special by week or month. Special attention paid to Traveling Salesmen, Tourists and Home-seekers.

O. B. KONE

BEN CARY

NEW HOTEL RIVERSIDE

The Most Exclusively High Class

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

Save Money

We have just received a complete line of fine watches and jewelry. Before buying your Xmas presents call and we will gladly quote you our prices. Our expenses are small because we do all our own work, therefore we can sell you good at a small profit. All kinds of fine watch and jewelry repairing absolutely guaranteed. Eyes examined FREE and every pair of glasses guaranteed to give satisfaction or we REFUND you money.

REED JEWELRY AND OPTICAL COMPANY

The Underwood Typewriter

Is the Typewriter you will eventually buy. Let us place one in your office.

HICKS HARDWARE CO. Agents.